



SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

& SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

SPRING 2009 GUIDE



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Spring, the season of...

CHANGEABLE WEATHER:

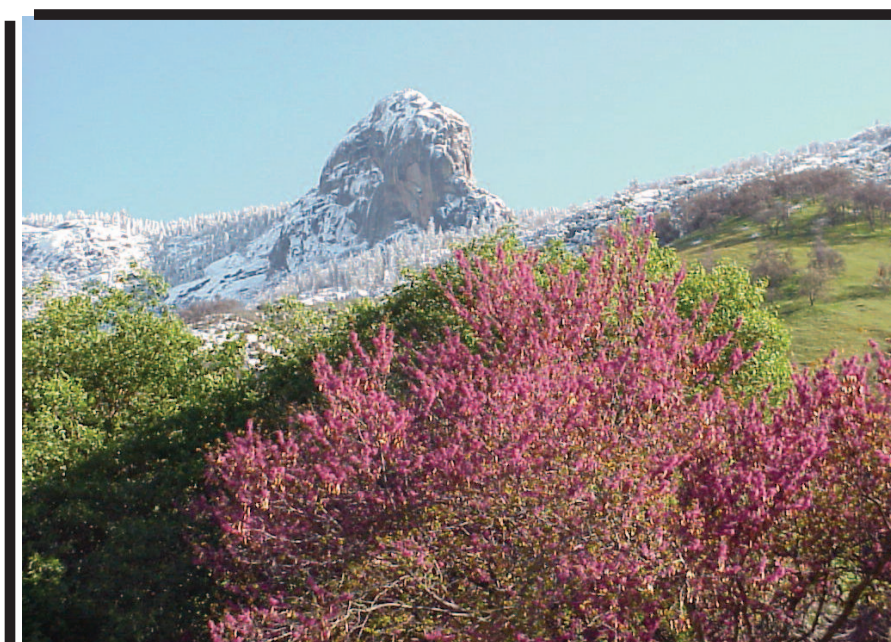
Especially in a place with the range of elevations you find in these parks. The lesson: Be prepared for anything. Tire chains may yet be required to get to the sequoia groves, along with jackets and boots.

ROAD PROJECT: Depending on weather, work in Sequoia starts this spring. Expect delays on the Generals Highway between Wolverton Road in the Giant Forest and Little Baldy (north of Wuksachi Lodge). Our goals: a good road surface and minimal traffic delays. Watch for unpaved surfaces in the work zone and possible work at night. Work halts on Memorial Day weekend from Friday noon through Monday.

DANGEROUS RIVERS: Melting snow sends water cascading down the mountains. The beautiful sights and sounds draw people to the river banks, especially on warm days, but beware! Almost every year a visitor drowns in these waters. Often they weren't even swimming, but fell in when exploring the river's edge.

RIVER ROVERS: This volunteer group is dedicated to reducing drownings in these parks. They talk to people along the rivers who may not understand the risk they take by approaching or getting in. And the rovers are succeeding! For the past two years, no one has drowned here. Want to help? Call 1-559-565-4211 and become a river rover!

WILDFLOWERS: The foothills flowers started blooming in



Redbud blooms in the foothills while snow coats Moro Rock and sequoia groves.

January. Every day, wildflowers a little further up slope start to open. By the time the foothills lie dry and brown, blooms are still just getting started in the sequoia groves and higher elevations.

INCREASING ACTIVITY: The seasonal employees that do so much for these parks and their visitors start to come back. With their return, more programs can be offered, visitor centers hours can increase, and facilities that close for the winter can reopen. See the schedules on pages 8-9.

THE SEQUOIA SHUTTLE: Starting May 21, Memorial Day weekend, you can park and ride for free in the Giant Forest. For a small fee, you can ride from Visalia to the

Big Trees. See page 6 for details.

WILDLIFE BABIES: Keep an eye out for young animals of every kind. These youngsters aren't familiar with people or cars, so slow down and keep your distance. The wilder they stay, the better they will be able to fend for themselves.

AWAKENING BEARS: Watch for hungry bears grazing on meadow grasses, or trying to grab food at a picnic area. Bears that succeed in getting human foods always try to get more, and that gets them in trouble. If they become aggressive or too destructive in seeking it, they must be killed. Keep spring the season of life -- store and guard your food carefully!